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The head circumference of boys was found to average approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch more than the head circumference of girls, and this difference is persistent throughout the period of life covered by the table.

From this table the average rate of growth can be determined with approximate accuracy for any duration within the limits of the table, and the comparative rate of growth of different parts of the body is likewise ascertainable for both sexes. The great majority of the children whose measurements are included in this table were of American-born parents; the children, however, were of different stocks, including German, Irish, Swedish, some Italian, and some of various other races. It would be desirable to have similar tables for the different racial elements, and perhaps even for different sections of the country. There is some evidence that the average measurements, even of these young children, would be found to differ, in the South, for instance, as compared with the North and West, entirely aside from the probable racial differences. It would seem, however, that this table, being based upon measurements of normal healthy children in various sections of the country, should serve as a fair guide for many practical purposes without any additional refinements.

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#### A PLAN FOR GATHERING STATISTICAL DATA AS A BY-PRODUCT OF ADMINISTRATIVE WORK.

We, in this country, have for a number of years been familiar with the using for scientific purposes of records kept for administrative purposes. Thus the records kept by charity organization societies, chiefly in order to increase the efficiency of their work with individual families, have been extensively used as data for the scientific study of the causes of poverty and dependency.\* In some cases also items or questions, which were not necessary for administrative purposes, have been added to the record forms with the purpose in view of using the data as a basis for scientific studies of cause and effect. In such cases the supplementary data recorded for scientific uses are a sort of by-product, turned out in the regular course of administrative record keeping.

This plan of gathering data as a by-product to regular administrative work has not been so extensively used in field investigations. In at least one instance, however, effective use has been made of it—by Dr. John Robertson, Medical Officer of Health for Birmingham, England, in his study of the relation of the employment of mothers to infant mortality. The advantage of his method appears to be sufficiently great to warrant a brief description of it.

\* See for example Devine's "Misery and Its Causes," pp. 230 ff., and Conyngton's "How to Help," pp. 15-16, 342-3.

In describing the plan used Doctor Robertson said in his report for 1909: "On May 10, 1907, a letter was received from the Home Office to the effect that the Home Secretary had under consideration the question of the further regulation of the industrial employment of women before and after child birth. . . . In order that fuller information as regards the effect of employment both before and after child birth on the health of the mother and child . . . might be obtained, a scheme of investigation was drafted and medical officers of health were asked to take part in the collection of data. . . . "

Having decided that two wards in his district (St. Stephen's and St. George's), because of the large number of women gainfully employed, furnished an excellent area for such an investigation, a plan or method of collecting the data had to be devised. The method chosen was rather unique, although Doctor Robertson does not appear to have appreciated this fact. Instead of employing investigators to make special visits to the homes of mothers for the particular purpose of obtaining the information needed, it was decided to simply have the health visitors, who in the course of their regular work would be visiting the mothers in the two wards anyway, ask the necessary questions and make the needed observations as a supplement to their regular duties. Thus the gathering of the data as to the relation of the employment of mothers to infant mortality was a sort of by-product of the regular health work.

The visits were made by Dr. Jesse Duncan and "two experienced health visitors." "Every baby born (with a few exceptions) was visited at "frequent intervals" and at the end of twelve months weighed. Describing the results for 1908 Doctor Duncan says: "The children born in the district are visited as soon as convenient. . . . At this visit directions are given [as usual] as to the care of the child, but [in addition] information is obtained regarding the mother's employment, previous history, husband's wages," the mother's age, the method of feeding, etc. This plan of investigation was also followed in 1909 and 1910.\*

From the standpoint of accuracy and thoroughness, the advantages of this method of gathering data are clear. Doctor Robertson shows this when he says: "I desire to add that the work which Dr. Jesse Duncan [assisted by the two health visitors] has done, and upon which this report is based is characterized by its accuracy and thoroughness. She has spent her whole time among those residing in St. Stephen's and St. George's Wards, and is familiar with every phase of life in these districts. This has enabled her to check and correct the statements made by the mothers she has interviewed." This is one advantage. In another place he points out another—the fact that "close contact was maintained with each of these mothers during a whole year, and much information not available at the first visit was obtainable at subsequent visits."

\* Health Department of the City of Birmingham, England: "Report on Industrial Employment of Married Women and Infant Mortality," supplement to the annual report of the department for 1909, and "Report on Infant Mortality in St. Stephen's and St. George's Wards," supplement to the annual reports of the department for 1910 and 1911.

The expense involved in gathering data by this method is probably also considerably less than that involved in the usual house to house method. Since the data gathered is a sort of by-product of the regular work of the health visitors and since the visits to the homes would be made and probably most of the necessary questions asked any way, even if no records were kept of the answers, it would appear that the additional expense involved would be chiefly that of recording and tabulating the data and preparing and printing the report.

This method of gathering data might well be adopted by many American cities in studying infant mortality and similar problems.

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*India. Moral and Material Progress and Condition of India During the Year 1913-1914.* India Office. London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, July, 1915. Pp. 137.

This report is compiled from detailed accounts from each of the presidencies and districts and is presented to parliament annually. The statement is divided into 18 chapters, which summarize administrative and financial matters, sources of revenue, condition of various industries, and other aspects of life in India.

The remarkable growth of coöperative credit societies is outlined. These were primarily organized to help the cultivators and to protect the poorer classes from greedy and merciless money lenders. The membership increased from 28,629 in 1905-6 to 744,226 in 1913-14, and the working capital from £32,000 to £5,145,000. These societies help to develop not only rural communities, but urban as well. The societies, through small loans, enable artisans to purchase necessary tools and implements. This fact is of great importance since the manufacturing population has increased sufficiently to necessitate special labor legislation. In a good many respects this legislation is not much, if at all, behind that of some of our states. Factory inspection and condition of women workers are definitely covered. Child labor laws call for working papers (issued upon medical examination); a minimum age for employment (9 years); and maximum number of working hours (6 hours in textile industry, 7 in others). These facts speak not only of industrial development, but of intellectual and social growth as well. This is further emphasized by the chapter on education which shows that colleges and institutions of even higher learning can boast not only of native male, but also female students.

Defects in the vital statistics are frankly admitted. In addition to the usual causes of under registration met with in other countries,—indifference to and neglect of legislation—the Government in India is confronted with utter ignorance on the part of information gathering agencies as well as on the part of the population as a whole. Even with defective registration, the records indicate a very high birth rate (39.4 per 1,000). It is due,